

St. John's News

*St. John's United Church of Christ
139 North Fourth Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049*



*The Angels Bring
Good News*

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Emmaus, PA 18049

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



December

Church Office

Monday thru Friday

8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30

Phone: 610-965-9158

Fax: 610-967-5380

Email: office@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30

Sunday School: 9:15

Church Staff and Officers

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Assisting Pastor

Rev. Curtis Sandrock

Minister of Music

Patrice Dicarne, pd10454@aol.com

Sexton

Cheryl Clauser, 610-966-3210, cylecu@aol.com

Administrative Secretary

Colleen Bernini

Financial Secretary

Diane Ritter, dedemarit@juno.com

Director of Christian Education

Patricia Dillman, 610-762-6208, pat@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Youth Group Advisor

Keith Draves, keith@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Consistory President

Larry Delhagen, 610-782-5405, lawrence.delhagen@stifel.com

Treasurer

Richard Miller, 610-966-6752, mill39rich@ptd.net

On Sunday, December 12, 2010, a Congregational Meeting will be held following both worship services to approve nominations for Consistory, Board of Christian Education and to approve the 2011 Budget.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19th

"The Signs of Christmas"

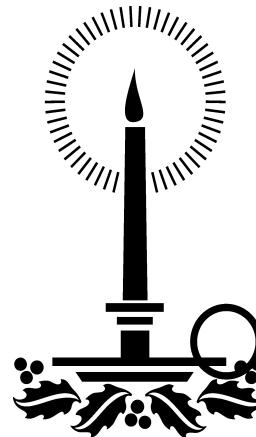
Sunday school mini-cantata will be performed during the 10:30 service in the sanctuary.

We encourage everyone to bring family and friends for this special presentation!

Christian Symbols

Candle

The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.



From the Senior Pastor

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

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The staff of St. John's United Church of Christ—Pastor Paul, Pastor Curt, Patrice, Colleen, Pat, Keith, and Cheryl—wish you a Merry Christmas.

May love, joy, peace, and goodwill be your gifts at Christmas.

And may God shower you with blessings all the New Year through!

PASTOR

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This passage presents three types of “proclamation” about Jesus: the angels who receive that proclamation, go to see the child, and spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child; and Mary, who “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Think about the following questions:

- What different roles do these characters play in spreading the gospel?
- With which of these roles do you most clearly identify? Why?
- How do you see yourself fulfilling this role?

May all of us, during these seasons of Advent and Christmas, proclaim the birth of Jesus to all around us. May we show that His birth has made a profound difference in our lives. May we show the world that we are a transformed people because of the birth of an infant over 2,000 years ago.

Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger



Christmas Eve Services

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve worship services as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, December 24th at 6:30 PM for our family service and at 11:00 PM for our traditional candle-light service.

December Missions

Sixth Street Shelter

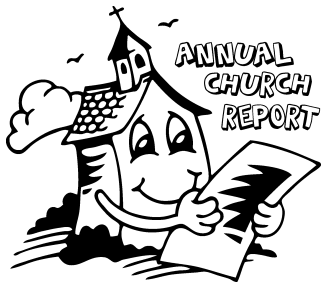
The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross Emergency Fund

The children who reside at the Sixth Street Shelter are always in need of new underwear, undershirts, socks, and pajamas. Sizes range from toddlers to teenagers. “The Sock-It-To-Me” and “Sunday Undies” Christmas trees will again be located in the narthex and the atrium. Please remember these children in your prayers and your purchases of basic necessities.

On Christmas Eve the Bay Gifts for Jesus (a traditional St. John’s mission project) will be accepted during the Christmas Eve services and placed under the Christmas trees located at the front of the sanctuary. These items include layettes, clothing, infant caps, mittens, wipes, disposable diapers, toiletries, and baby food. These items will also be donated to the Sixth Street Shelter. The need is always great for infant items; however, one item not needed at this time is baby formula. The Shelter has a sufficient supply and needs to use it up before the expiration dates run out.

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is one of four special offerings received annually in the United Church of Christ. This fund has been in existence for 108 years. It is a fund which helps to provide pension and premium supplementation to low-income UCC retirees. The fund also provides emergency assistance to the families of low income ordained and lay clergy. Hundreds of gift checks are given out each year. Lower-income retirees continue to feel most keenly the financial stress brought about by the current economic climate. Please prayerfully consider your response to the 2010 Christmas Fund offering and give as are able to help the men and women who have so willingly served our churches and often with insufficient incomes.

Candles/Used Cell Phones with Cords: The Mission Committee will accept old and new candles for the homeless. The candles are often used in cold weather to help melt frozen drinking water. Used cell phones with cords will also be given to the homeless. Used phones are “wiped clean” and given to the homeless for emergency 911 calls.



2011 Annual Church Meeting

The 2011 Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 20th after the 10:30 AM service. All committees responsible for a report to be included in the annual report please note that the deadline for the information to be in the church office is Friday, January 21st. Early submissions are greatly appreciated!

Church contribution records for 2010 will close on December 31, 2010. For your contribution to be credited to the 2010 tax year, be sure your check dated December 31 is received in the church office no later than January 7, 2011. No checks dated for 2011 will be credited for 2010.

As a reminder, giving statements will be mailed households with a yearly contribution of at least \$200.00. Otherwise, please call the church office and a statement will be prepared for you.

Looking Ahead...

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2010
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2010
- Confirmation Class Christmas Caroling, December 18, 2010
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2010
- First Day of Winter, December 21, 2010
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2010
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2010
- New Years Eve, December 31, 210
- New Year's Day, January 1, 2011
- Installation of Consistory & Board of Christian Education, January 9, 2011

10-2 Club

The 10-2 Club meets on Wednesday, December 15th at 10:00 AM. Come and enjoy singing from the Cadence Choir of Lower Macungie Middle School. Devotional leader will be Pastor Paul.

Confirmation Class Christmas Caroling

Our Confirmation Class will be Christmas caroling at Phoebe Home on December 18th.



New Member's Class

St. John's will be hosting a new Members Class on Wednesday, December 8th at 6:00 PM in the church parlor. We will welcome new members during the 10:30 AM worship service on December 12th. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Paul or call the church office.

O, Christmas Tree!

According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and the fir. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn kin, and the palm tree gave its dates. The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.



L&R Cemetery Update

As president of the L&R Cemetery Association, I would like to personally convey my thanks to Robert and Debbie Kline, our Superintendants, for the great job they do for us. Constantly I am told that we have the best maintained cemetery around! Also, I want to thank our Secretary-Treasurer, Sally Stair, for the great job of keeping minutes and juggling figures to keep us solvent with our minimum resources. Thanks also to board members, Attorney John Ashcroft for the many legal things he has taken care of at no charge, and also for his great advice. Also a thank you to Phil Rhode for his valued business acumen, his hauling of an old refrigerator, painting, and veteran flag placing.

Most of all, a special thank you to the Rev. Fred Forester, for all the countless, countless, countless things he does for L&R. We really do appreciate all you do, Fred.

What a great bunch of people to work with!

Sincerely,

Floyd C. Schmoyer



The Story of Christmas

By Mary Anna Vidakovich in “Sing to the Lord”

These days of Advent have been very busy days, full of distractions, many times leaving us exhausted and frustrated. Today it is here: Christmas has come, whether we were ready or not. And the glory of Christmas does not lie in whether we are ready or not, but in the glory of God that poured into the world through the birth of Christ, glory that continues to pour out upon us in the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, glory that will be fully revealed to us on the day when Christ returns.



Bible Quiz

The gospel of Luke tells about Joseph and Mary taking the baby Jesus to the temple “to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22, NRSV). An old man approached and said the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he wouldn’t die before he saw the Messiah. Seeing Jesus and being moved by the Holy Spirit, this man proclaimed that the baby was indeed the Messiah.

What was the man’s name?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon
- C. Phanuel
- D. Zechariah

Answer: A (See Luke 2:25)

Advent Candle Lighting

Families, groups or individuals are needed to volunteer to be part of the worship service by lighting the Advent candles during the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services on the four Sundays in Advent, and at the 6:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



Message from the Consistory President

Dear Fellow Members of St. John's,

As my term as Consistory President draws to a close, I want to take one final opportunity to thank the many members at St. John's who give so much of themselves to the fulfillment of our mission to be humble stewards of the treasures that God has lent us, and faithful missionaries amongst our own church family and the community at large.

First, I want to thank the members of this year's Consistory who were an inspiring and engaging group. Members like Mike Ackerman, a past Consistory President, who rejoined Consistory this past year when asked to do so, and the first time members, Greg Herbine and Christine Hanna, who chose to act rather than watch from the sidelines, have made all the difference for our church this past year. When you see them and fellow Consistory members—Bill Knappenberger, Scott Stenroos, Tom Capehart, Mike Bolza, Craig Demmy, Phil Rhode, Marty Beers, and his son Adam (our Youth Representative), our Secretary Dave Davis, Treasurer Richard Miller, our Past President John Hill, our incoming First Vice President John Zayaitz and our incoming Consistory President, Russ Drabick—please thank them for their leadership. They have worked very hard over this past year doing tasks seen and unseen, and we owe these folks a huge round of applause.

Over the past year, the 17 of us haven't agreed on every issue, but we have interacted respectfully and efficiently. They say light work is made by having many hands involved and indeed, this has been an excellent group to work with these past 11 months. I also want to thank our two 2011 Consistory nominees, Wendy Moyer-Drabick and George Baver for agreeing to become deacons for the 2011 Consistory and Marty Beers for agreeing to become 2nd Vice President (leading to his 2nd term as Consistory President in 2013). I have lived here in the Lehigh Valley long enough to know that it is the Pennsylvania German way not to leap into the mix unless asked to do so directly, but when asked, there are no better friends or loyal volunteers. Well, we are asking. If you are the parent of young ones attending Sunday school and want a say in your child's Christian education, please volunteer as an instructor or on the Board of Christian Education. If you feel you can bring leadership or financial skills to St John's, Consistory needs you.

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CONSISTORY

Continued from page 5

If you are handy and can help us maintain the building, we can use you on the Building and Grounds Committee. If you can shovel snow, plant flowers, shred cabbage, mind toddlers in the nursery, sing, quilt or stuff envelopes, there is something for you to contribute at St. John's and Pastors Paul or Curt can guide you to the right committee or group. And if you desire to see that St. John's UCC in Emmaus continues to serve this congregation in the years and decades ahead, give generously and remember to name St. John's in your will or estate. After watching what a group of volunteers was just able to accomplish at our annual Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner, I know the man and womanpower exists here at St. John's to do great things.

Help us do great things in 2011. Merry Christmas and a healthy journey as we serve the Lord in 2011.

In His Service,

Larry Delhagen
Consistory President

The Missing Piece

It's frustrating trying to complete a picture puzzle and realizing a piece is missing. The same is true when we try to make sense of our lives and discover something's missing within.

Each of us has an emptiness that only God's Spirit can fill. Philosophers speak of a "God-shaped hole," and Augustine wrote, "Our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you. "Until we rest in God, inner peace and "completeness" will evade us. Drugs, drunkenness, riches, travel, sexual escapades, and social activities won't suffice.

That's why the psalmist wrote, "'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, Lord, do I seek" (Psalm 27:8, NRSV). That's also why Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10, NRSV). Being filled with God is the only way to fill in the missing piece and have a truly fulfilled life.

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

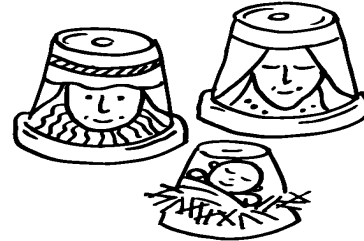
Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

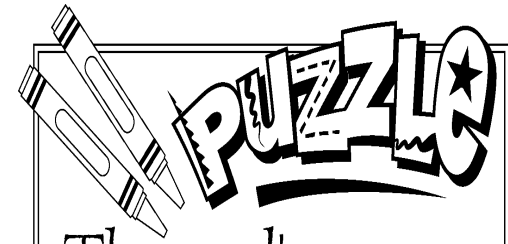
1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



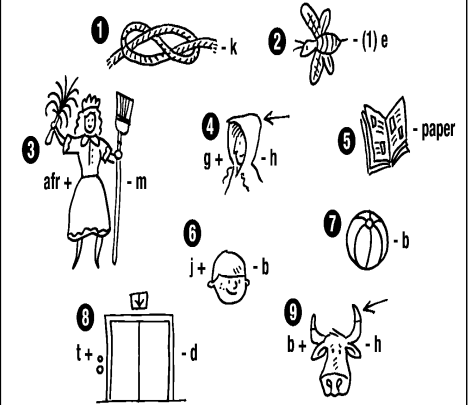
"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ I bring you _____
 _____ of great _____ that will be for _____ the people.

Today in the _____ of David a Savior has been _____

to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(f)e=be; 3. af+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born